

Message Text

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17L

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-11

OMB-01 /069 W

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R 270610Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4281

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 2946

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN, BG

SUBJECT: NEGOTIATIONS ON FARAKKA

REF: NEW DELHI 2568

1. DELHI PRESS FEBRUARY 26 REPORTS THAT THE GOI HAS NOW RECEIVED THE BDG'S REPLY TO THE INDIAN NOTE OF FEBRUARY 11 PROPOSING TALKS ON THE FARAKKA WATER ISSUE. AN MEA SPOKESMAN REFUSED COMMENT ON THE BDG REPLY SAYING THAT IT WAS UNDER CONSIDERATION.

2. EMBOFF QUESTIONED BANGLADESH FIRST SECRETARY MOHIUDDIN AHMED FEBRUARY 26 ABOUT BDG'S POSITION ON FARAKKA TALKS. WHILE REFUSING EXPLICITLY TO REVEAL CONTENTS OF THE BDG NOTE, AHMED WAS QUITE CLEAR IN ACKNOWLEDGING THAT INDIA HAD ALL THE BARGAINING CHIPS ON ITS SIDE AND THAT THE BDG HAD
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NO CHOICE BUT TO SEEK NEGOTIATIONS WITH INDIA. HE DENIED

THAT THE BDG HAD INSISTED THAT INDIA STOP OR REDUCE ITS WITHDRAWAL OF WATER FROM FARAKKA AS A PRECONDITION FOR TALKS. AHMED SOUGHT TO EXPLAIN AWAY ANY INTERPRETATION TO THAT EFFECT BY SAYING THAT WHAT THE BDG MEANT WAS THAT INDIA'S WITHDRAWAL OF WATER MADE IT DIFFICULT TO HAVE SUCCESSFUL TALKS.

3. ASKED TO EXPLAIN HIS UNDERSTANDING OF CURRENT GOI BEHAVIOR TOWARD BANGLADESH, I.E., THE CROSS BORDER ACTIVITY AND THE FARAKKA QUESTION, AHMED SAID INDIA SOUGHT TO MAINTAIN "PRESSURE" ON BANGLADESH. THIS PRESSURE WAS A WARNING TO THE BDG AGAINST POSSIBLE "MISBEHAVIOR." (SEE NEW DELHI 2881.)

SAXBE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 27 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition History: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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